

Message Text

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USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

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USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY

S E C R E T ATHENS 4951

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, GR, US

SUBJECT: HELLENIKON SUBGROUP MEETING, JULY 2

REF: ATHENS 4919

SUMMARY: THIRD MEETING OF HELLENIKON SUBGROUP AGAIN FOCUSED
ON A DRASTIC CUT IN US PERSONNEL, AS GREEK SPOKESMAN RENEGED
ON SECOND MEETING PROVISIONAL UNDERSTANDING TO USE TOTAL
OF GREEK MILITARY
AUTHORIZED AT HELLENIKON AND GREEK NATIONALS EMPLOYED BY US
AS A BSE FOR DETERMININ FUTURE US MILITARY POPULATION.
HE STATED THAT THE NUMBER OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL SHOULD
BE LESS THAN GREEK MILITARY, MENTIONED THE FIGURE OF 450,
AND SUGGESTED US CONSIDER RELOCATING RECONNAISSANCE FUNCTION
TO ANOTHER AIRFIELD IN GREECE AS A MEANS OF REDUCING GAP.

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END SUMMARY

1. US REPS OPENED BY PROVIDING MATERIAL SPECIFYING THOSE US PERSONNEL TO BE RELOCATED AND LISTING OF GREEK EMPLOYEES OF US FORCES WORKING ON BASE, SHOWING TOTAL OF 656 GREEKS. BG KOURIS, HAF, WHO HEADED GREEK GROUP IN JUNE 30 MEETING BUT DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN JULY 1 MEETING, RETURNED TO HIS THEME THAT A "WIDE GAP" EXISTED BETWEEN US PROPOSED STRENGTH FIGURE AND GREEK CONCEPT OF A "VERY SUBSTANTIAL" REDUCTION, ADDING THAT GAP HAD TO BE REDUCED TO MANAGEABLE PROPORTIONS. BE LABELLED CONCEPT OF COUNTING GREEK EMPLOYEES AS PART OF ON-BASE GREEK STRENGTH AS "AN ARTIFICIALITY, NOT TOUCHING SUBSTANCE OF THE MATTER, LIKE OTHER US PROPOSALS TO RAZE CERTAIN STRUCTURES AND PLANT TREES." WHEN US REPS EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT GREEK CLOSURE OF CONSTRUCTIVE AVENUE WHICH THIS CONCEPT HAD OPENED, GREEKS CHARACTERIZED THE CONCEPT AS A "MISUNDERSTANDING."

2. GREEK REPS STATED THAT US MILITARY PERSONNEL SHOULD NUMBER FEWER THAN GREEK MILITARY PERSONNEL ON HELLENIKON, GREEK REPS REITERATED THAT THEIR STRENGTH AT HELLENIKON WAS ABOUT 500, AND DECLINED TO ADDRESS POSSIBLE DIFFERENCE IN NUMBERS OF AUTHORIZED AND ASSIGNED PERSONNEL. GREEK REPS, RECOGNIZING DIFFICULTY OF MAKING SIGNIFICANT FURTHER CUTS IN EXISTING ACTIVITIES AND CONCLUDING THAT ONLY WAY TO NARROW GAP WAS IN AREAS WHERE LARGE NUMBER OF US MILPERS CONCENTRATED, SUGGESTED AS "PERSONAL IDEA" THAT US MIGHT WISH TO RELOCATE RECONNAISSANCE ACTIVITIES, PERHAPS TO ANDRAVIDHA AB OR TANAGRA AB, OR, ALTERNATIVELY, TO REDESIGN OR CHANGE CONCEPT OF THESE OPERATIONS GREATLY TO REDUCE GROUND ACTIVITIES. HE SUGGESTED THAT ALTERNATIVE TO SUCH A CUT WAS REFERENCE OF GAP TO "POLITICAL LEVEL." US REPS EXPLAINED RATIONALE FOR NUMBER OF MILPERS INVOLVED AND RE-ITERATED THAT PRESENT LEAN OPERATION DRAWING ON BASE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT WOULD HAVE TO GROW ITS OWN ADMINISTRATIVE TAIL IF RELOCATED AS SUGGESTED. US REPS NOTED THAT THIS QUESTION COULD NOT BE ADDRESSED LOCALLY AND UNDERTOOK TO REPORT IT TO WASHINGTON.

3. GREEK REPS STRESSED THAT GOG NOT PUTTING ANY RESTRICTIONS ON FUNCTIONS PERFORMED AT HELLENIKON, BUT THAT MANDATE TO SECRET

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GREEK NEGOTIATORS WAS "CRYSTAL CLEAR." US REPS NOTED THAT "VERY SUBSTANTIAL" WAS SUBJECT TO INTERPRETATION AND AGREED WITH GREEK REP THAT MATTER SHOULD BE REFERRED TO "POLITICAL MASTERS" FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS OR CLARIFICATION,

4. KOURIS RECOGNIZED THAT ONLY MINOR REDUCTIONS MIGHT BE EFFECTED IN PROPOSED LEVEL OF 1,150, BUT INDICATED DESIRE TO HAVE VISIT TO HELLENIKON BY SEVERAL OF GREEK REPS TO

REVIEW CERTAIN FUNCTIONAL AREAS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT VISIBILITY MEASURES PROPOSED BY US COULD BE ADDRESSED AFTER THIS VISIT. VISIT ARRANGED FOR JULY 3. HE THEN PROPOSED ANOTHER FORMULA WHEREBY US MILPERS WOULD APPROXIMATE ONE THIRD OF COMBINED TOTAL OF GREEK MILPERS AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF US FORCES. US REPS NOTED THAT SINCE GREEKS TOTALLED 1,156, US STTRENGTH WOULD PRESUMABLY BE LESS THAN 400, TO WHICH GREEK REPS REPLIED THAT FIGURE OF 450 SEEMED ABOUT RIGHT.

5. AMBASSADOR CALOGERAS AND DCM STEARNS ARE TO DISCUSS PROGRESS OF SUBGROUPS ON JULY 3.
KUBISCH

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